



A BETTER WORD

FROM OLD TO NEW TO YOU

8 Themes That Run Through the Whole Bible | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The People of God

Genesis 17:7–8; Deuteronomy 7:6; Ephesians 3:8–11; 1 Peter 2:9–10

THE BIG IDEA

God has always been forming a people for himself — chosen, redeemed, and sent to display his glory — and if you trust Jesus, that people is yours.

SERMON SUMMARY

From the moment God called Abraham, he was not just making a transaction — he was forming a people. Through Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel, God built a nation that was chosen, redeemed from Egypt, given the law, and brought to a promised land. Through seasons of faithfulness and rebellion, God never abandoned his people. He was jealous for them, the way a husband is jealous for a wife who turns away.

In the New Testament, something remarkable happens: the people of God expand beyond ethnic Israel to include everyone who trusts Jesus — men and women, Jew and Gentile, slave and free. The church is not a building or a program; it is the gathered people of God, displaying his manifold wisdom to the world and to heavenly powers (Ephesians 3:10). Your identity as part of this people is more defining than your job, your nationality, or your family name.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Deuteronomy 7:6 says God “chose” Israel “out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.” What does it mean that God’s people are chosen? What does this tell us about the basis of belonging — is it earned or given?
2. The purpose of God’s people in the Old Testament was twofold: to be blessed, and to display God’s glory to the nations (Isaiah 49:3; 60:1–3). How do these same two purposes appear in the New Testament for the people of God? See Titus 2:14 and Ephesians 1:13–14.
3. John 1:12–13 says that to those who received Jesus, “he gave the right to become children of God — born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of man, but of God.” How does this shift the entry requirement for the people of God from ethnic identity to faith? What does this open up?
4. Ephesians 3:8–11 says that through the church, “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places.” What does it mean that God chose an assembly of ordinary, broken people as the primary display of his wisdom? How does this change the way you think about your local church?
5. The sermon offered five implications for being part of the people of God. Which resonated most with you, and why? Is there one implication you’ve been neglecting in your own spiritual life?

LIVING IT OUT

You are not a disconnected individual trying to figure out faith on your own. You are part of something ancient, vast, and beautiful — a people that God has been forming since the beginning of time, and to whom he has been faithful through every generation. Your place in that story is not an accident. It is his eternal purpose, enacted in Jesus.

Heart Check: What is your primary source of identity right now — your career, your family, your reputation? How would your daily perspective shift if being one of God's people became the chief thing that defines you?

This Week: Make one concrete investment in your local church this week — attend if you've been absent, serve if you've been passive, or reach out to someone in the congregation you don't know well. Let your engagement be a declaration: you don't just go to church. You are part of the people of God.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

— **1 Peter 2:9**

Thank God that you didn't choose him first — he chose you. Ask him to give you a deep sense of your identity as one of his people, and to show you one way to more faithfully represent him in the world around you this week.

Your Prayer:

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